

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims in accordance with the following marked-up version of each amended claim in which underlines indicate insertions and strikethroughs indicate deletions. Additionally, the following listing of claims should replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A manually operable input apparatus for a portable electronic processing device, defining a plurality of regions each representing a respective data item, said manually operable input apparatus comprising a plurality of sheets configured to produce a response to a mechanical interaction and a stand for supporting said electronic processing device; wherein

said sheets are configured to be wrapped around said electronic processing device to provide a protective cover, and

said sheets are configured to be foldable through at least one of said plurality of regions;

said input apparatus comprises connecting means to connect said input apparatus to said electronic processing device, and

said connecting means is foldable to allow said input apparatus and said electronic processing device to be mutually arranged in an operational configuration in which said electronic processing device is supported in a position spaced apart from said input apparatus, and to be reconfigured into a wrapped configuration in which said electronic processing device is enveloped by said input apparatus, by the steps of

folding said connecting means about a first axis to an intermediate position in which said electronic processing device is received on a surface of said input apparatus, and

bending said input apparatus about a second axis non-parallel with said first axis and a third axis non-parallel with said first axis.

2. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said input apparatus is a keyboard.

3. (Previously Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said processing device is a hand-held computer, a mobile telephone or portable audio equipment.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1–4, wherein said ~~connection~~ connecting means further comprises an interface circuit configured to apply voltages to one or more of said sheets and to convey positional data to said electronic processing device.

6. (Previously Amended) Apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said electronic processing device is programmed to correlate said positional data with look

up tables for converting positional data received from said interface circuit into a presentation in form of alpha numeric text.

7. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1 7, wherein said connecting means is configured so as to retain said electronic processing device connected thereto during bending operations.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) ~~A manually operable input apparatus and a portable electronic processing device in combination as claimed in claim 8, wherein said processor remains connected to said connection means during said folding operations.~~
Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said connecting means is configured so as to retain said electronic processing device connected thereto during folding operations.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~A manually operable input apparatus and a portable electronic processing device in combination~~ Apparatus according to claim & 1, wherein said second axis and third axis are disposed in a substantially parallel relationship to one another.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~A manually operable input apparatus and a portable electronic processing device in combination as claimed in claim 8~~ Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said second bending axis and said third bending axis divide the input

apparatus into a central portion, a first lateral substantially planar portion and a second lateral substantially planar portion.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~A manually operable input apparatus and a portable electronic processing device in combination as claimed in~~ Apparatus according to claim 11 wherein, in the intermediate position said electronic processing device is received by said central portion and said first lateral portion bends about a first edge of said electronic processing device along said second axis and said second portion extends about a second edge of said electronic processing device along said third axis to form said wrapped configuration.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~A manually operable input apparatus and a portable electronic processing device in combination as claimed in~~ Apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said first lateral portion and said second lateral portion of said input apparatus are secure in the wrapped configuration by a securing means.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~A manually operable input apparatus and portable electronic processing device in combination as claimed in~~ Apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said securing means is a hook and loop fastening system such as VELCRO®.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~A manually operable input apparatus and a portable electronic processing device in combination as claimed in~~ claim 8-1, wherein, in said

intermediate position, said electronic processing device is operable independently of said input apparatus.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~A manually operable input apparatus and a portable electronic processing device in combination as claimed in Apparatus according to claim 11,~~ wherein said electronic processing device is supported by said stand in said operational configuration.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~A manually operable input apparatus and a portable electronic processing device in combination as claimed in Apparatus according to claim 16,~~ wherein said stand comprises a flexible fabric cable having electrical connection elements contained therein.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~A manually operable input apparatus and a portable electronic processing device in combination as claimed in Apparatus according to claim 17,~~ wherein said stand comprises hinged support portions to facilitate the erection of said stand.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~A manually operable input apparatus and a portable electronic processing device in combination as claimed in Apparatus according to claim 18,~~ wherein said sections of plastic hinge about said flexible fabric cable.

20. (Currently Amended) ~~An manually operable input apparatus~~ Apparatus according to claim 1 and a portable electronic processing device in combination wherein said input apparatus is permanently attached to an edge of said electronic processing device and is configured to allow mutual arrangement in an operable configuration, in which the input apparatus extends from said edge of said electronic processing device, and reconfiguration into the wrapped configuration in which said input apparatus is wrapped around said electronic processing device.

21. (Currently Amended) ~~A manually operable input apparatus and a portable electronic processing device in combination as claimed in~~ Apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said input apparatus is constructed from fabric.

22. (Currently Amended) ~~A manually operable input apparatus and a portable electronic processing device in combination as claimed in~~ Apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said input apparatus comprises a membrane keyboard.

23. (Currently Amended) ~~A manually operable input apparatus and a portable electronic processing device in combination as claimed in~~ Apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said keyboard surface is configured so as to facilitate the bending of the keyboard.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Cancelled)